

Town of Hampton Mosquito Control Commission

April 18, 2005

Minutes of Meeting March 29, 2005

Attendees:

Ann Kaiser

Rich Reniere

Russ Bernstein

Sarah MacGregor of Dragon Mosquito

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Ann opened the discussion stating that HMCC's budget was cut from \$93,500 to \$60,000 due to the failure of the recommended town budget. This reduction reflected the cost of the adulticiding (\$33,000) and the placement of the greenhead traps (\$500).

It was also stated that these cuts came as a complete surprise to the board members, none of whom were consulted by the town manager or selectmen. A cut of \$3,500 was mentioned, informally, to Ann by the town manager, but no other numbers or actions were discussed. Ann verified this \$3,500 amount with the town financial director as late as the Friday prior to the Monday selectmen's meeting where the larger cut was announced.

Sarah was asked if she could still place the greenhead traps for free and she said she would, but she would not be able to provide any maintenance on any damaged units. A damaged unit would typically be ineffective at trapping the greenheads.

Ann noted that the 2004 budget for the HMCC was approved at \$103,970, based on an estimate from the previous contractor. Sarah's proposal, which was adopted after the initial budget approval, was \$93,500. Therefore, the HMCC's budget will suffer a 42.3% reduction, which is much larger than most other departments. Russ stated that this reduction could be perceived as a vindictive "payback" to the voters for voting against the town budget.

The board decided that we would try to approach the town manager and selectmen again and ask to reconsider. Ann volunteered to contact the media to alert the public regarding the cancellation of this year's adulticiding. It was decided that any complaints should be directed not to this board's members, but to the selectmen.

Sarah said she expected a 'buggy' season.

Motion to adjourn at 7:00pm.